

LEADGATE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1925.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration the following Report on the Sanitary Circumstances, the Sanitary Administration, and the Vital Statistics of your Area for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres, ... ..	1,836
Population, Census 1921, ... ..	5,132
Population, estimated 1925, ... ..	6,630
Physical Features and General Character of the Area, ... ..	Mining District.
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1921, ... ..	1,069
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers, 1921, ... ..	1,078
Rateable Value, ... ..	£23,422
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, ... ..	£86
Population estimated by Registrar General ... ..	6,078



Your District, which includes the town of Leadgate, and the villages of Iveston, Crookhall, The Delves, and East Castle, occupies an elevated and exposed position.

Coal-mining and other works in the adjoining districts are the chief sources of employment. All the collieries and works belong to the Consett Iron Company.

The population of your District has greatly increased during the past five years, due to the influx of a large number of families from other areas to occupy the new houses built by the Consett Iron Company at Crookhall and Watling Street Bungalows.

The amount of Poor Law Relief paid in the Leadgate Area for 1925 was £15,812, which is nearly three-quarters of the rateable value. In 1924 the amount was £1,044. There has been great industrial depression during practically the whole year and the amount of relief granted has increased in consequence, as the amount above shows.

Hospital treatment is given free at many institutions and is freely made use of when necessary.

VITAL STATISTICS.

					Total.	Males.	Females.
BIRTHS	{ Legitimate,	...	...	...	236	123	113
	{ Illegitimate,	...	...	...	6	5	1
Birth-rate for the year,					39.8	per 1,000.	
Birth-rate for all England and Wales,					18.3	per 1,000.	

The following Table shows the number of Births, and the Birth-rates per 1,000 inhabitants for previous five years in the Leadgate Area.

No of Births.				Birth-rate per 1,000.
1920	...	163	...	31.4
1921	...	151	...	28.6
1922	...	163	...	29.9
1923	...	180	...	27.3
1924	...	190	...	28.7

					Total.	Males.	Females.
DEATHS,	...	...	...	...	86	51	35
Death-rate for the year,					14	per 1,000.	
Death-rate for all England and Wales,					12.2	per 1,000.	



The following Table shows the number of Deaths and the Death-rate in the Leadgate Area for the previous five years.

		No. of Deaths.		Death-rate per 1,000.
1920	...	70	...	13.5
1921	...	82	...	15.5
1922	...	109	...	20
1923	...	100	...	15.2
1924	...	82	...	12.4

## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

For the five years previous to the one under review, the Infantile Death-rates are shown in the following Table.

		No. of Infantile Deaths.		Death-rate per 1,000 Births.
1920	...	16	...	98.1
1921	...	24	...	158.9
1922	...	25	...	153.3
1923	..	23	...	127.7
1924	...	13	...	68

With the exception of 1924 (when the Infantile Death-rate was only 68, as compared with 75 for the whole of England and Wales), the Death-rate of Infants under one year was higher than the County average.

Among the causes contributing to this were bad housing conditions and overcrowding.

Many children die from premature birth and this is often due to disease in the mother. The more frequent supervision of Health Visitors and regular attendance at Welfare Centres would tend to a great reduction in the number of deaths of Infants.

Unfortunately the average mother shows a want of knowledge as regards the feeding of her child. Very frequently unsuitable food is given and there is sometimes a lack of domestic cleanliness. Attention to the health of the expectant mother and the proper feeding of infants would greatly reduce the Infantile deaths, and as a result a decided gain in the welfare of the children, and later on, the general health of the community would benefit.

### INFANTILE MORTALITY for 1925:—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—Legitimate, 24 ; Illegitimate, 1 ; Total, 25.

Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 Births,	...	...	...	103
Infantile Death-rate for all England and Wales,	...	...	...	75

Deaths from Measles (all ages),	...	3.	Ages, 5 yrs. & 2 yrs.
Deaths from Whooping Cough, (all ages),	...	0.	
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years),	...	1.	Aged 1 yr.
Deaths from Enteric Fever,	...	1.	Aged 19 yrs.
Deaths from Diphtheria, ...	...	1.	Aged 1½ yrs.
Deaths from Scarlet Fever,	...	1.	Aged 3 yrs.





The following Table gives the causes of Death of residents of all ages, 1925 :—

CAUSES OF DEATH.				MALES.	FEMALES.
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	1	0
Measles	...	...	...	2	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1	0
Influenza	...	...	...	2	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1	1
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	...	3	0
Malignant Disease	...	...	...	6	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	1	5
Heart Disease	...	...	...	4	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	5	2
Brouchitis	...	...	...	0	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	2	1
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	1	0
Nephritis	...	...	...	2	2
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	0	1
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth	...	...	...	8	5
Deaths from Violence	...	...	...	3	1
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	9	4
Total				51	35

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or by the County Council :—

1. **TUBERCULOSIS.**—There is no Sanatorium situated in your Area, but there are several in the County of Durham, provided by the County Council, to which patients from your Area can be sent, who are suffering from this disease.
2. **MATERNITY.**—A large ward provided by the County Council in the Richard Murray Hospital, Blackhill, which is close to your District, is reserved for Maternity patients, and several from your District have been treated there.
3. **CHILDREN.**—Children requiring Hospital treatment can be sent to the Richard Murray Hospital, Blackhill, or to the Children's Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
4. **FEVER.**—The Leadgate or Villa Real Infectious Hospital, to which patients from your Area suffering from Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and Typhoid Fever are sent, is situated on the borders of your District. There is ample accommodation for all cases which may occur. This hospital forms one of the four hospitals under the jurisdiction of the Lancaster Joint Hospital Board, of which your Council forms one of the constituent authorities.





5. SMALL POX.—The Howden Bank Small Pox Hospital, situated about four miles from Leadgate, is one of the four hospitals mentioned above. All cases of Small Pox arising in your Area are sent to this hospital.
6. OTHER HOSPITALS available for the treatment of patients from your Area, and situated outside it are :—

The CONSETT IRON CO. INFIRMARY.

LANCHESTER UNION HOSPITAL.

ROYAL VICTORIA INFIRMARY, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

There are no institutions provided in the District for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children.

MOTOR AMBULANCES.—Infectious cases are removed to hospital by Motor Ambulances, and one is also available for the removal of non-infectious cases and accidents to other hospitals. A special Motor Ambulance is reserved for Small Pox cases.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.—The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, situated in Medomsley Road, Consett, and under the control of the County Council, is available for mothers and children from your Area. A School Clinic is also held here weekly.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary, also provided by the County Council, and situated in Consett, is available for all cases of Tuberculosis.

A Treatment Centre for Venereal Disease is held at the Royal Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health (part time).

Sanitary Inspector (part time).

Health Visitor appointed and paid by the County Council.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.—A fully trained Nurse is provided by the local Nursing Association for the purpose of visiting and nursing the sick poor in their own homes. All cases are attended to with the exception of Infectious Diseases. This Association is supported by voluntary contributions and is managed by a local Committee.

A qualified Midwife now resides and practices in your Area.

ADOPTIVE ACTS in force in your Area :—Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889 ; Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890 ; Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, (Part III) ; Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, (Part II, III, IV, and VI) ; Public Libraries Act, 1892 ; Public Libraries Act Amendment Act, 1893.

BYE-LAWS.—New Streets and Buildings, 1916 ; Slaughter Houses, 1896 ; Prevention of Nuisances, 1896 ; Common Lodging Houses, 1896 ; Cleansing of Footways, Ashpits, &c., 1896 ; Regulations Inspecting Dairies, Milkshops, and Cowsheds, 1896.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**WATER.**—The whole of the District is supplied with water from the main of the Durham County Water Board. The supply is constant and plentiful. There are no stand pipes and with very few exceptions there is a supply of water in every house.

**RIVERS AND STREAMS.**—There has been a marked improvement during the year in the condition of the streams flowing through the District. The completion of the Crookhall Sewage Works has entirely stopped the pollution of the Boggle Hole Burn, which, two and half years ago, was a stream of crude sewage. There is still, I regret to say, some pollution of Pont Burn due to the erection of houses at a point too low to be drained by gravitation into the Watling Street Works. Everything possible has been done to reduce this pollution, but until the question of the joint scheme of sewage disposal between you and the Lanchester R.D.C. has been settled I do not think we can hope for any further improvement in the condition of this stream.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.**—Leadgate is drained on the combined system by sewers which are old, but nevertheless of adequate size and in good condition. The grades are, for the most part sufficient, and very little trouble is experienced from stoppages. Considerable improvements have been carried out during the past three years by the relaying of parts found to be defective, and in the construction of man-holes at the more important junctions.

The village of Crookhall, comprising 185 houses, is drained on the combined system to the new Sewage Disposal Works near Crookhall Farm. It is a source of great satisfaction to me to be able to report that every house and building in Crookhall is now fitted with the water carriage system.

**DELVES LANE.**—The 9 Bungalows or Villas, at Delves Lane have cesspools, and the sewage from Percy Terrace and the New Miners' Hall is drained on to land and irrigated. You have already received the sanction of the Lanchester R.D.C. to drain these houses into their Delves Lane Sewers, on payment of an annual charge. I think it highly desirable that you should take advantage of this offer and commence with the laying of the necessary sewers as soon as possible.

**IVESTON.**—The sewage from this isolated village is dealt with by land irrigation, and is quite adequate for present needs.

**SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS, CROOKHALL.**—These new works were opened Dec. 2nd, 1925 for treating the sewage from Crookhall village and the South-side of Leadgate.

**WATLING STREET SEWAGE WORKS.**—These works are old, somewhat inadequate, and much too near to dwelling houses. It is to be hoped that the protracted negotiations, which you have carried on with the Lanchester Rural District Council, in an endeavour to obtain a joint scheme of sewage disposal for the North-side of Leadgate, and part of the Medonsley Parish, will soon be mutually agreed upon. The ultimate position of this proposed joint scheme demands your most careful consideration, so that the sewage from the low lying parts of your Area on the North-side, will be adequately treated. The ultimate position of the works should be one that will drain the whole of this Area.

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, :—

Year.	Number in District.			Number converted to Water Carriage System.		Ash-pit Privies Demolished.
	W.C's.	Ash-Closets.	Privies.	Ash-Closets	Ashpit Privies.	
1921	272	115	370	nil	2	nil
1922	546	115	367	nil	3	nil
1923	603	109	365	6	2	nil
1924	786	108	314	1	14	37
1925	923	108	229	nil	32	53



The above table shows the Closet accommodation of the District at the end of each of the last five years. It will be seen that the number of privy middens is decreasing at an increasing rate, due to the conversion scheme undertaken by the Consett Iron Company. The position as regards the conversion of ash-closets is not so satisfactory, and I would suggest that more attention should be given to this matter. Now that there is adequate provision for the disposal of the sewage from the South-side of Leadgate, there is no reason why all the ash-closets in that part of your Area should not be converted to the water carriage system.

SCAVENGING.—All ash-closets and privies in the District are cleansed by either the owner or occupier of the premises, whilst ashpits and ashbins of houses fitted with the water carriage system are emptied by the Council. The latter part of the work is carried out in a very satisfactory manner by contractors working under the supervision of your Inspector. As regards the cleansing of privies and ash closets the work is not so satisfactory, but I understand your Council intend taking over all the scavenging as soon as the remainder of the old houses are demolished.

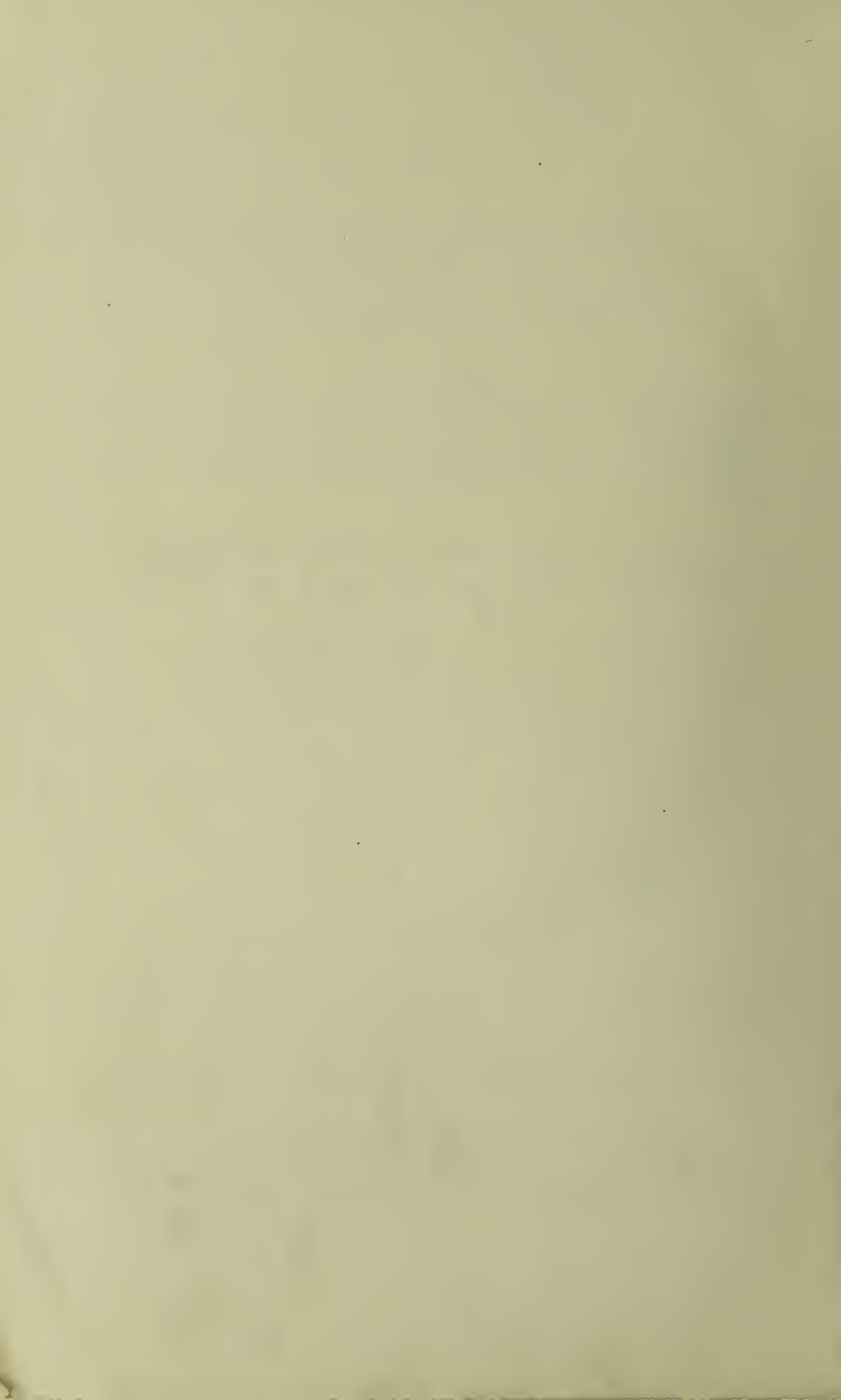
### SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1925.

	Informal Notices written by Inspector.	Formal Notices by Order of Local Authority.	Number of Nuisances Abated after Notice.
Dwelling Houses and Schools—			
Foul Conditions ... ..	0	1	1
Structural Defects ... ..	1	1	2
Overcrowding ... ..	9	0	9
Lodging Houses ... ..	0	0	0
Dairies and Milkshops... ..	0	0	0
Cowsheds ... ..	2	0	2
Bake Houses .. ...	0	0	0
Slaughter Houses ... ..	1	0	1
Ashpits and Privies ... ..	3	4	5
Deposits of Refuse ... ..	4	1	5
Water Closets ... ..	1	1	2
House Drainage ... ..	1	0	1
Water Supply ... ..	1	0	0
Animals improperly kept ... ..	0	0	0
Offensive Trades, etc. ... ..	0	0	0
Total ... ..	23	8	28

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—There have been no complaints of smoke nuisance during the year and no action was necessary.

SCHOOLS.—The Sanitary condition of the schools of the District is very satisfactory and the Inspector has had no cause for complaint. During the Small Pox epidemic the schools attended by patients and contacts were thoroughly disinfected.

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS in the District are :—Aerated Water Manufacturer, 1 ; Bakehouses, 2 ; Boot repairers, 3 ; Blacksmiths, 2 ; Cycle repairer, 1 ; Joiners, 4 ; Motor Repairer, 1 ; Watchmaker, 1. 16 inspections of workshops in your Area were made during the year. With the exception of one, showing want of cleanliness, which was soon remedied, nothing else of an unsanitary nature was found.





## Prevalence and Control over Infectious Disease.

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1925.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox ... ..	19	19	0
Scarlet Fever ... ..	53	53	1
Diphtheria ... ..	14	14	1
Enteric Fever .. ...	6	6	1
Puerperal Fever ... ..	0	0	0
Acute Pneumonia ... ..	5	0	7
Ophthalmia ... ..	0	0	0
Chicken Pox ... ..	5	0	0
Erysipelas ... ..	4	0	0

Notifiable Diseases in your District during the previous 5 years.

DISEASE.	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
Small Pox ... ..	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ... ..	16	8	15	12	30
Diphtheria ... ..	19	24	13	11	38
Enteric Fever ... ..	0	0	0	1	4
Ophthalmia ... ..	1	0	0	0	1
Erysipelas ... ..	2	2	3	1	4
Acute Pneumonia ... ..	0	5	2	6	5

Table showing ages of occurrence of the different Infectious Diseases notified in 1925.

DISEASE.	Under 1 year.	1-2 years.	2-3 years.	3-4 years.	4-5 years.	5-10 years.	10-15 years.	15-20 years.	20-35 years.	35-45 years.	45-65 years.	65 yrs. and up
Small Pox ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	5	6	3	3	1	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	1	3	3	10	17	12	3	5	...	...	...
Diphtheria ... ..	...	3	...	1	...	4	3	...	2	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...
Pneumonia ... ..	...	1	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1





## SMALL POX IN LEADGATE, 1925.

A Report on the cases of Small Pox which occurred in your area during the year, 1925.

The first two cases reported were two children aged 11 years and 2 years, from 392, South Cross Street. These occurred on May 8th and no further cases were reported until June 27th, a period of 7 weeks. The subsequent cases reported had in my opinion no relationship with the first two cases as no contact could be traced, and the period intervening was much longer than the incubation period of Small Pox, which is usually 14 days and may extend to 21 days in some cases.

On June 27th, two cases were reported, a boy 12 years old from 4, 1st Watling Street and an adult from 29, 2nd Watling Street.

On June 30th, a boy aged 9 years contracted the disease at 40, Durham Road.

On July 18th, a second case was reported from 40, Durham Road. This patient, when previous case occurred, refused vaccination although 3 other persons in the same house had never been vaccinated were done, and have escaped.

On July 19th, the next cases was reported from 9, 2nd Watling Street, a young man aged 18 years. It is quite possible that the infection in this case may have been contracted from one or other of the two previous cases reported from the Watling Street Bungalows as in a crowded area where people are frequently mixing it was almost impossible to trace all the contacts.

On August 4, two cases (2 boys aged 13 and 6 yrs.) were reported from Crookhall. All contacts of these two cases were traced as far as possible and vaccinated and no further cases were notified from the Crookhall area.

On August 6th, three cases were reported from 503, Tin Street, a mother and two children aged 13 years and 11 years. One of these children was practically better when other two cases were notified, and the other two cases were evidently a direct infection from her. As the patient had been out and going about for a few days before case was discovered it was next to impossible to trace all contacts.

On August 10th I was informed from outside sources that at 543, Garden Terrace, there were people living there who had suspicious rashes and I immediately called and discovered three children with well developed Small Pox. The infection in these cases was probably from the ones in 503, Tin Street.

August 12th. A case was reported from 3, 1st Watling Street, a young man 17 years, no doubt infected from the previous Watling Street cases.

August 17th. A case was reported from 6, Shipley's Yard, and I traced direct contact with previous cases from 503, Tin Street. When this case was notified I visited all the houses in Shipley's Yard and found 8 children who had not been vaccinated. I explained to the different parents the danger these unvaccinated children were running and they consented to have them vaccinated, which was done.

August 21st. At 46, 2nd Watling Street, a girl 7½ years was notified as having Small Pox.

August 28th. A second case was reported from 3, 1st Watling Street, previous case from this house notified on August 12th. This patient refused vaccination when previous case was reported. One or two of the above cases have been going about and mixing with the general community before a doctor had been called in and the disease discovered. The infection in this way was spread to others.

Through the local Press I issued a warning notice to the effect that heads of houses who fail to report any suspicious case to their own doctor or to the Medical Officer of Health can be severely punished. None of the above 19 cases had ever been vaccinated. Fortunately they were all mild cases and recovered. Recent vaccination or re-vaccination is the only safe and sure method of preventing an extensive epidemic of Small Pox.



## REPORT ON TYPHOID CASES DURING THE YEAR 1925.

The first case, namely, Wm. Southern, aged 19 years, of 12, Redwell Hills, Leadgate, was sent to Newcastle Infirmary, and after a few days there, he was diagnosed as a case of Enteric Fever, and sent to Isolation Hospital. This case was notified to me by Dr. Kerr, M.O.H., Newcastle-on-Tyne, on November 23rd, 1925.

On December 2nd, it was reported to me that 4 patients residing at 12, Redwell Hills (where above case had been living), were ill with suspicious symptoms and I suggested to the Doctor in attendance that an examination of the blood of each of the 4 patients should be done and report for Widal reaction. This proved negative in all 4 cases.

On December 5th, the Doctor in attendance reported that these 4 patients were still ill, and that in his opinion they were suspicious cases of Enteric, although the blood test was negative. I immediately sent all 4 cases to Isolation Hospital.

The house No. 12, Redwell Hills, Leadgate, consists of 3 rooms and a scullery. There is a privy in yard which is common to tenants next door.

The occupants of No. 12 are, father, mother, and 7 children. The mother and 3 children, ages, 13, 9, and 4 years, were those sent to Isolation Hospital.

3 of the remaining children were also ill but with no definite Typhoid symptoms. These latter all recovered.

The house was thoroughly disinfected and full investigations were made both by your Inspector and myself to trace the origin of the disease. Nothing definite could be found out, and I was able to exclude infection by milk supply, shell fish, or ice cream.

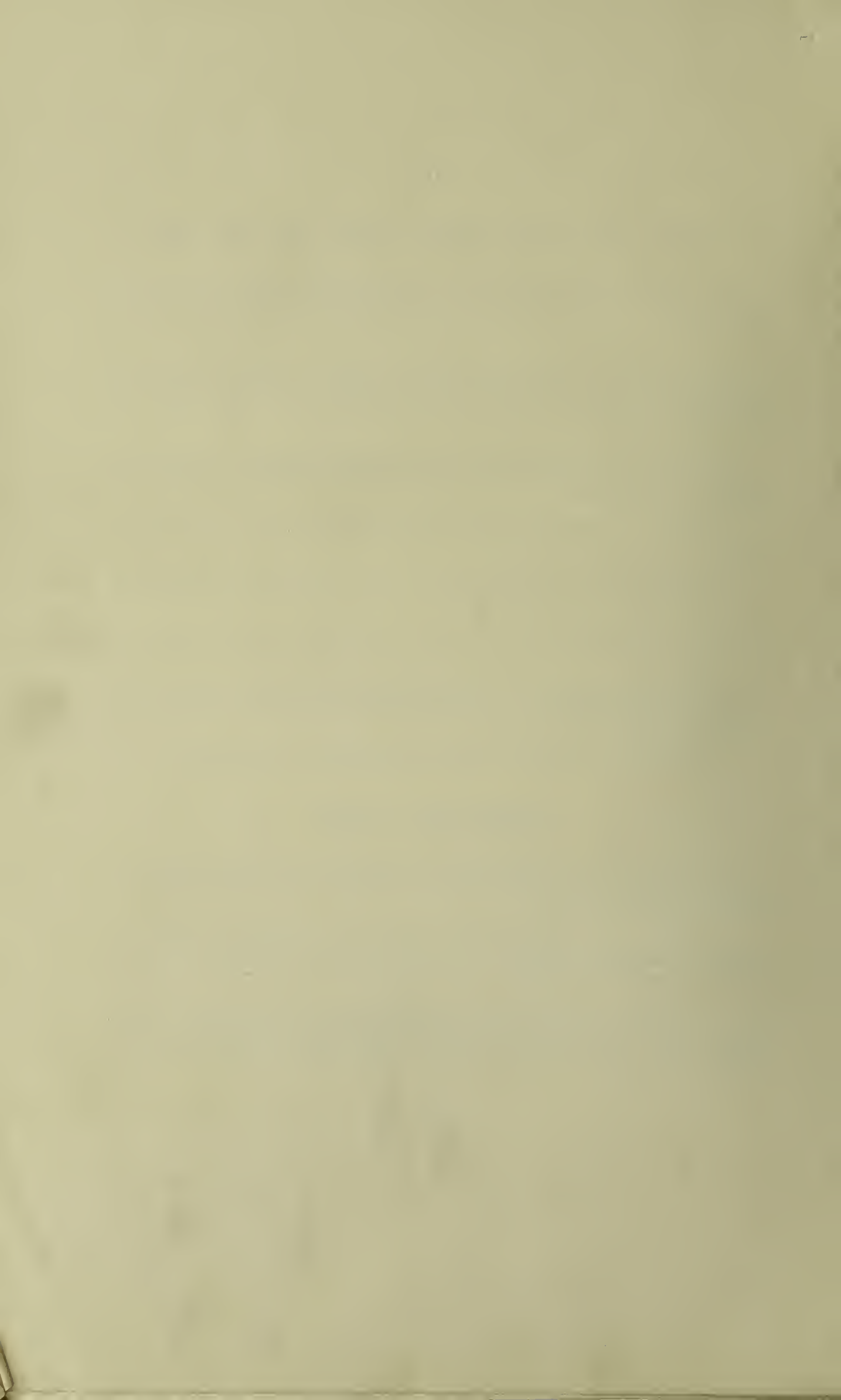
I understand that 3 of the cases in the Infectious Hospital showed very mild symptoms.

## LABORATORY WORK.

The College of Medicine, Newcastle-on-Tyne, by arrangement with the Durham County Council, examine all pathological and bacteriological specimens sent by Medical Practitioners free of charge. This privilege is freely taken advantage of.

An adequate supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin is kept in stock at my Surgery in Leadgate and is promptly used in all cases of Diphtheria. No use so far has been made of the Schick or Dick test in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively.

All premises are thoroughly disinfected by fumigation after infectious patients are removed to Hospital. In Small Pox cases the bedding and clothing are disinfected in a steam disinfectant at Leadgate Infectious Hospital. There are facilities for cleansing verminous premises and clothing by spraying, etc. During the year fumigation was carried out in 90 cases.



## TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and mortality during 1925.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
5	...	2	1	1	...	...	1	...
10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	1	...	...	1	...	1	1	...
20	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
25	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	5	2	2	2	...	2	3	...

Total Tubercular Deaths, 5.

Non-notified Tubercular Deaths, 0.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

**MILK SUPPLY.**—The supply of milk in the District seems to be pure and wholesome. At the end of the year there were 24 producers and 5 retail purveyors of milk on the register, kept in accordance with the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922. The cowsheds and dairies have been regularly inspected and found in every way satisfactory. No licences have been applied for in respect of the sale of milk under special designation.

Under the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, there has been no action found necessary as regards tuberculous milk or tuberculous cattle, or under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

**SLAUGHTER HOUSES.**—The slaughter houses in the Area have been regularly visited, and during the year 1925, 100lbs of meat was condemned as unfit for human consumption and destroyed. No cause for complaint has been found under the Public Health (Meat) Regulation, 1924.

## PRIVATE SLAUGHTER HOUSES in Area :—

	In 1920.	January, 1925.	December, 1925.
Registered	4	4	4
Licensed	0	1	1
	—	—	—
Totals	4	5	5

The two bakehouses in the District have been kept in a satisfactory condition.





## HOUSING.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.—Roughly speaking about 25 per cent of the population of the District are living in houses which are almost unfit for habitation. These are the old houses in your Area. They are small, with insufficient accommodation for sleeping purposes. Many are cold and damp, and there is not sufficient ventilation, and in a great many, the sanitary conveniences are not healthy. All these houses will eventually be demolished as the reconstruction scheme undertaken by the Consett Iron Company progresses. During the year, 92 unfit houses were demolished and at this rate it will take about two to three years to complete the demolition scheme. I understand there are nearly 100 applicants for houses on the waiting list.

Your Council are endeavouring to encourage private enterprise by offering at a low price, land acquired under the 1919 Housing Act. By this means it is hoped that upwards of 70 new houses will be built. Your population has increased very considerably during the past five years due to the importation of labour.

OVERCROWDING.—This is considerable in the old two-roomed houses and is due in many cases to large families being the occupiers, who are unable to obtain larger houses. As larger houses are being built the families are removed from the smaller houses prior to demolition. The worst cases of overcrowding are reported to the Consett Iron Company with a request that they would try and assist by a change of tenants. In nearly every case this has been done.

FITNESS OF HOUSES.—Apart from the unfit houses mentioned above, the standard of housing is high, most of the remaining houses being modern. There has been no complaint or action regarding unhealthy areas.

Existing Bye-laws are sufficient and there appears no need for revision.



## HOUSING SCHEDULES.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919, 1923, or 1924 ;							
(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	70

1. *Unfit dwelling-houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	107
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.	...	...	...	...	...	15
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	92
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	12

2. *Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	...	...	6
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—						
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	...	...	...	...	nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—						
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	...	4
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	nil

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN MURRAY, M.B., B.CH.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*The Hawthorns, Blackhill,*

*March, 1926.*

